



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/469,561

12/22/1999

MARTIN PAGEL

61135/P016US/10106022

5104

29053 7590 06/26/2008
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P
2200 ROSS AVENUE
SUITE 2800
DALLAS, TX 75201-2784

EXAMINER

WU, RUTAO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3628

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/26/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/469,561
Filing Date: December 22, 1999
Appellant(s): PAGEL, MARTIN

Ross Viguet
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed May 12, 2008 appealing from the Office action mailed December 20, 2007.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

5,684,706

Harman et al

11-1997

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-19, 21-27, 30-34 and 37-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat No. 5,684,706 to Harman et al.

Referring to claim 1:

A method of printing a data stream being presented to a printer, said data stream adapted to enable said printer to print on one or more sheets of paper information in accordance with said data stream, said data stream containing data bits useful for controlling functions additional to said printing information in accordance with said data stream, said method comprising:

Abstracting at least a portion of said data bits from said data stream with a postal printer driver, wherein said data stream is provided by an application which has not been adapted to control said additional functions and said abstracting includes examining said data stream for data patterns native to output of said application.

Harman et al disclose that the subject invention which includes a plurality of user input stations 2 which communicate with a mail center controller 4. Stations 2 typically include a conventional microcomputer running a substantially conventional word processing application. (col 3: lines 20-24) Harman further disclose the data flow in input station 2 and mail center controller 4 in creating job data 10. Input station 2 is

Art Unit: 3600

preferably a microcomputer of the type commonly used in an office environment, a commercial word processing application 30, such as that sold under the trade name "Word" by the Microsoft Corporation. (col 4: lines 35-40) Therefore, since Harman disclose that conventional word processing application is used it would have been obvious that the application is not adapted to control the additional functions.

However, as Harman disclosed, using the mail center controller 4 to determine a postage value is only the preferred embodiment of the invention, the postage value could have been determined and included in the job header 12 before the data stream gets to the mail center controller 4. (col 4: lines 9-11, 62-67) Therefore it is obvious from the description that if the postage value is determined in advance, then the mail center controller 4 does nothing and passes the data stream along to the parser for abstraction. Furthermore, Hartman discloses that "it is well within the skill of a person of ordinary skill in the programming arts to modify a word processing application or produce a special application which would enable a system to provide such varying attribute data for mail piece headers 18." (col 5: lines 6-10) Therefore it is obvious at the time of the invention for one skilled in the arts to combine the word processing application and driver 37 as disclosed by Hartman into one application to create the job data, and the application's function is to create the job data and not adapted to control any additional functions.

Figure 2 of Harman's disclosure shows the patterns of the job data 10, outputted by the applications, which is parsed by parser 112 residing in the mail production apparatus. (Fig 5)

Using at least some of said abstracted data bits for controlling at least one of said additional functions, wherein said at least one of said additional functions comprises printing of a postage indicia.

Harman discloses that job header 12 also defines a job type and preferably the job type also defines whether or not the mail piece is to be franked, and whether postage values are to be calculated or have been determined a priori. (col 4: lines 8-11)

Creating, from said abstracted data bits, a separate data stream for controlling the printing of said postage indicia.

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100 accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG. 5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) Once the postage value is determined, controller 100 then requests a postal indicia corresponding to that value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the request is granted, returns the variable portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller 100 downloads this variable data to printer 66 together with address and other information to be printed on the envelope. (col 6: lines 4-11) Therefore, it can be seen that Harman creates a separate data stream (variable data) for controlling the printing of postage indicia.

Referring to claim 2:

The method claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises printing of address information on material separate from said printing information in accordance with said data stream.

Harman discloses as part of job data 10, the envelope data filed 22 which includes an address to be printed on the envelope. (col 4: lines 25-26)

Referring to claim 3:

The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises the printing of a postage indicia on material separate from said printing information in accordance with said data stream.

Harman disclose that the postage indicia is printed on a envelope. (col 6: line 13)

Referring to claim 4:

Harman does not expressly disclose the method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises a dialog box for allowing options from a user. However, Harman does disclose that at 150 mail center controller 4 receives job data 10 from one of input stations 2. At 152 controller 4 determines the material requirements for the job, and at 154 tests to determine if a capable mail processing apparatus is on-line. That is, for example, if the job requires non-standard size materials controller 4 determines if at least one mail processing apparatus 8 capable of processing such material is on-line. If no capable apparatus is found controller 4 goes to an error routine. (col 9: lines 55-62) Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Harman to display a dialog box to the user when the controller 4 goes to an error routine to notify the user of options such as check the apparatus or switch apparatus.

Referring to claim 6:

The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises directing the abstracted portion to multiple locations.

Harman discloses the parser outputs document data from field 20 to page description language (PDL) interpreter 114 and envelope data from field 22 to envelope data buffer 118 in mail finishing unit controller 100. (col 7: lines 49-52)

Referring to claim 7:

The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises storage in a memory.

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit controller 100 access per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 56-60)

Referring to claim 8:

The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises directing the abstracted portion to a viewable medium.

Harman discloses that the envelope data field 22 includes an address to be printed on the envelope. (col 4: lines 25-26)

Referring to claim 9:

The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises the changing of form of the data.

Harman discloses preferably envelope printer 66 includes an integral controller which will render the test characters received from mail finishing unit controller 100 into

appropriate control signals to render an image of the address in accordance with the address data, the font, the layout etc. (col 5: lines 48-50)

Referring to claim 10:

The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises the delivery of said data to a location remote from said printer driver.

Harman discloses printer controller 58 receives job data 10 from mail center controller 4 and parses the data; sending the attribute data from either job header 12 or mail piece header 18 to mail finishing unit controller 100. (col 5: lines 37-40)

Referring to claim 11:

The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises the change in at least one of location and format of the data based upon an interaction between certain data in said data stream and data stored in said printer driver.

Harman discloses preferably envelope printer 66 includes an integral controller which will render the test characters received from mail finishing unit controller 100 into appropriate control signals to render an image of the address in accordance with the address data, the font, the layout etc. (col 5: lines 48-50)

Referring to claim 12:

The method of claim 1 wherein said printer driver is operable on said data stream coming from said application operating in a computing device to control at least a portion of the printing of said printer.

Harman discloses the mail finishing unit controoler 100 stores mail piece attributes 40 from job header 12 for default control of the production of each mail piece and downloads common elements of the address to be printed on the envelopes to envelope printer 66. (col 5: lines 42-46)

Referring to claim 13:

The method of claim 12 wherein said printer driver is located remote from said computing device. (Harman Figure 4)

Referring to claim 14:

The method of claim 12 wherein said printer driver is located within said printer. (Harman Figure 4)

Referring to claim 16:

The method of claim 1 wherein said data patterns are selected from the listing including:

Return address, destination address, mailing data, number of pages, type of inserts, mailing service type, postage indicia, bar codes, tracking codes, control codes, graphics, application types. (Fig 2; col 3: lines 51-67; col 4: lines 1-10)

Referring to claim 17:

A method of printing a data stream being presented to a printer, said data stream adapted to enable said printer to print on one or more sheets of paper information in accordance with said data stream, said data stream containing data bits useful for controlling functions additional to said printing information in accordance with said data stream, said method comprising:

Abstracting at least a portion of said data bits from said data stream.

Figure 2 of Harman's disclosure shows the patterns of the job data 10, outputted by the applications, which is parsed by parser 112 residing in the mail production apparatus. (Fig 5)

Using at least some of said abstracted data bits for controlling at least one of said additional functions, wherein said at least one of said additional functions comprises printing of a postage indicia

Harman discloses that job header 12 also defines a job type and preferably the job type also defines whether or not the mail piece is to be franked, and whether postage values are to be calculated or have been determined a priori. (col 4: lines 8-11)

Creating, from said abstracted data bits, a separate data stream for controlling the printing of said postage indicia.

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100 accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG. 5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) Once the postage value is determined, controller 100 then requests a postal indicia corresponding to that value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the request is granted, returns the variable portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller 100 downloads this variable data to printer 66 together with address and other information to be printed on the envelope. (col 6: lines 4-11) Therefore, it can be seen that Harman creates a separate data stream (variable data) for controlling the printing of postage indicia.

Wherein said printer driver is operable on said data stream coming from a program operating in a computing device to control at least a portion of the printing of said printer, wherein said abstracting includes examining said data stream for preestablished data patterns, and wherein said preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of postage indicia data.

Figure 2 as disclosed by Harman shows preestablished data patterns of the data stream. Harman discloses the mail center controller 4 calculates postage and material costs in accordance with the mail piece data and appends a postage value to mail piece header 18. (col 6: lines 1-3) Harman also disclose that fields 18, 20 and 22 are separate by unique separators 26-1, 26-2, 26-3 and 26-4. (col 4: lines 32-33) Therefore it is clear that the preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of postage indicia data.

Referring to claim 18:

The method of claim 1 wherein said additional function further comprises the printing of said postage indicia on a document other than the document to which said data stream is being directed.

Harman disclose that the postage indicia is printed on a envelope. (col 6: line 13)

Referring to claim 19:

The method of claim 1 wherein said data patterns include the beginning and ending of address information contained within said data stream. (col 4: lines 25-26; Fig 2)

Referring to claim 21:

The method of claim 1 wherein said data patterns include the beginning and ending of each document to be printed. (Fig 2, document data field 20)

Referring to claim 22:

The method of claim 1 wherein said data patterns include the number of pages of a document. (col 3: lines 57-60)

Referring to claim 23:

A method of printing information on a printed document, said method comprising the steps of:

Sending a data stream to a printing device; (Fig 1)

Reviewing said data stream to create therefrom a separate data stream for controlling additional functions with respect to printing of documents, wherein said separate data stream includes data accepted from a source other than said data stream to said printing device;

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100 accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG. 5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) At this point a separate data stream including data accepted from a source other than said data stream to said printing device has been created.

Then, once the postage value is determined, controller 100 then requests a postal indicia corresponding to that value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the request is granted, returns the variable portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller

100 downloads this variable data to printer 66 together with address and other information to be printed on the envelope. (col 6: lines 4-11) Therefore, it can be seen that Harman creates a separate data stream and in conjunction with the class 2 meter determine the amount of postage to be applied to a particular document to be printed.

Maintaining in a secure memory an amount available for controlling the generation of a postage indicia; (col 6: lines 15-18)

Calculating under joint control of said secure memory and said separate data stream an amount of postage to be applied to a particular document to be printed. (col 5: lines 56-61; col 6: lines 4-7)

Deducting said calculated postage amount from said secure memory of said calculated postage amount is available in said secure memory. (col 10: lines 3-8, 29-30)

Printing information from said data stream in accordance with said additional functions. (Fig 7)

Referring to claim 24:

The method of claim 23 wherein said additional functions are selected from the list including printing address information, printing postage indicia, folding a printed document, stuffing a printed document into an envelope, creating a mailing address for the delivery of a printed document, creating a postage indicia, creating an auxiliary document in association with a printed document, controlling a second printer operating in conjunction with said printer, verifying the address, normalizing the address, adding delivery bar codes. (col 3: lines 57-65)

Referring to claim 25:

The method of claim 23 wherein said reviewing step includes the step of:

Copying from said data stream portion of said data stream.

Harman discloses mail finishing unit controller 100 stores mail piece attributes 40 from job header 12 for default control of the production of each mail piece and downloads common elements of the address to be printed on the envelopes to envelope printer 66. (col 5: lines 42-45) Therefore, the common elements of the address are copied and used for each envelope.

Referring to claim 26:

The method of claim 25 wherein said portions include address information with respect to a particular document to be printed. (col 5: lines 42-45)

Referring to claim 27:

The method of claim 26 further including the step of:

Creating from said copied address information a postage indicia. (col 6: lines 9-15)

Referring to claim 30:

The method of claim 25 wherein said portions include postage indicia information with respect to a particular document to be printed. (col 5: lines 51-53)

Referring to claims 31 and 32:

Harman does not expressly disclose the method of claim 23 wherein said reviewing step includes the step of enabling a dialog box and wherein said dialog box interacts with a user to provide at least one of the following:

Return address and logo; data of mailing; address verification/prompt for insufficient information; review scanned data; hints for scanning data stream; additional cover page information or label/envelope customization; delivery (mail service, fax, e-mail, etc); and options (postage amount, paper weight, weight of inserts, additional mail services.)

However, Harman does disclose that at 150 mail center controller 4 receives job data 10 from one of input stations 2. At 152 controller 4 determines the material requirements for the job, and at 154 tests to determine if a capable mail processing apparatus is on-line. That is, for example, if the job requires non-standard size materials controller 4 determines if at least one mail processing apparatus 8 capable of processing such material is on-line. If no capable apparatus is found controller 4 goes to an error routine. (col 9: lines 55-62) Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Harman to display a dialog box to the user when the controller 4 goes to an error routine to notify the user of options such as check the apparatus or switch apparatus.

Referring to claim 33:

A computer program product, embodied on a computer-readable medium, for use in association with a data stream being directed to a general purpose printer when executed, said data stream adapted to enable said printer to print information in accordance with said data stream, said computer program product comprising:

An abstracting program operable for reviewing said data stream to obtain from said data stream a separate data stream for controlling additional printing operations

Art Unit: 3600

ancillary to said printing operation, wherein said one ancillary operation further comprises the acceptance of data from a source other than said data stream, wherein said data stream is provided by an application which has not been adapted to control said additional printing operations;

Harman et al disclose that the subject invention which includes a plurality of user input stations 2 which communicate with a mail center controller 4. Stations 2 typically include a conventional microcomputer running a substantially conventional word processing application. (col 3: lines 20-24) Harman further disclose the data flow in input station 2 and mail center controller 4 in creating job data 10. Input station 2 is preferably a microcomputer of the type commonly used in an office environment, a commercial word processing application 30, such as that sold under the trade name "Word" by the Microsoft Corporation. (col 4: lines 35-40) Therefore, since Harman disclose that conventional word processing application is used it would have been obvious that the application is not adapted to control the additional functions.

Furthermore, Hartman discloses that "it is well within the skill of a person of ordinary skill in the programming arts to modify a word processing application or produce a special application which would enable a system to provide such varying attribute data for mail piece headers 18." (col 5: lines 6-10) Therefore it is obvious at the time of the invention for one skilled in the arts to combine the word processing application and driver 37 as disclosed by Hartman into one application to create the job data.

Figure 2 of Harman's disclosure shows the patterns of the job data 10, outputted by the applications, which is parsed by parser 112 residing in the mail production apparatus. (Fig 5)

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100 accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG. 5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) Once the postage value is determined, controller 100 then requests a postal indicia corresponding to that value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the request is granted, returns the variable portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller 100 downloads this variable data to printer 66 together with address and other information to be printed on the envelope. (col 6: lines 4-11) Therefore, it can be seen that Harman creates a separate data stream (variable data) for controlling the printing of postage indicia.

A controller working in cooperation with said abstracting program and with said separate data stream for enabling at least one said ancillary printing operation, wherein said at least one ancillary operation comprises the printing of a postage indicia on material separate from material on which printing of said information is occurring.

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100 accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG. 5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) Once the postage value is determined, controller 100 then requests a postal indicia corresponding to that

Art Unit: 3600

value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the request is granted, returns the variable portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller 100 downloads this variable data to printer 66 together with address and other information to be printed on the envelope.

Referring to claim 34:

The computer product of claim 33 wherein said at least one ancillary operation comprises the printing of address information on material separate from material on which printing is occurring. (col 4: lines 25-26)

Referring to claim 37:

The computer product of claim 33 wherein said computer product is operable on said data stream coming from a general purpose computing device. (col 3: lines 20-24)

Referring to claim 38:

The computer product of claim 37 wherein said computer product is located remote from said computing device. (Fig 4, printer controller)

Referring to claim 39:

The computer product of claim 37 wherein said computer product is located within said printer (Fig 4, printer controller)

Referring to claim 40:

The computer product of claim 33 wherein said abstracting program includes:

A control program for examining said data stream for certain preestablished data patterns, wherein said control program examines said data stream for data patterns native to output of said application.

Figure 2 of Harman's disclosure shows the patterns of the job data 10, outputted by the applications, which is parsed by parser 112 residing in the mail production apparatus. (Fig 5)

Referring to claim 41:

A computer program product, embodied on a computer readable medium, for use in association with a data stream being directed to a general purpose printer when executed, said data stream adapted to enable said printer to print information in accordance with said data stream, said computer program product comprising:

An abstracting program operable for reviewing said data stream to obtain therefrom a separate data stream for controlling additional printing operations ancillary to said printing operation;

A controller working in cooperation with said abstracting program and with said separate data stream for enabling at least one said ancillary printing operation, wherein said at least one ancillary operation comprises the printing of a postage indicia on material separate from material on which printing of said information is occurring.

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100 accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG. 5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) Once the postage value is determined, controller 100 then requests a postal indicia corresponding to that value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the request is granted, returns the variable portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller 100 downloads this variable data to

printer 66 together with address and other information to be printed on the envelope.

(col 6: lines 4-11) Therefore, it can be seen that Harman creates a separate data stream (variable data) for controlling the printing of postage indicia.

Wherein said abstracting program includes a control program for examining said data stream for certain preestablished data patterns, and wherein said certain preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of postage indicia data.

Figure 2 as disclosed by Harman shows preestablished data patterns of the data stream. Harman discloses the mail center controller 4 calculates postage and material costs in accordance with the mail piece data and appends a postage value to mail piece header 18. (col 6: lines 1-3) Harman also disclose that fields 18, 20 and 22 are separate by unique separators 26-1, 26-2, 26-3 and 26-4. (col 4: lines 32-33) Therefore it is clear that the preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of postage indicia data.

Referring to claim 42:

The computer product of claim 40 wherein one said ancillary operation comprises the printing of said postage indicia on a document other than the document to which said data stream is being directed. (col 6: lines 9-11)

Referring to claim 43:

The computer product of claim 40 wherein said certain preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of address information contained within said data stream. (col 4: lines 25-26; Fig 2)

Referring to claim 44:

The computer product of claim 43 wherein said computer product further contains:

A program for creating from said address information data for controlling the printing of a postage indicia. (col 5: lines 56-61)

Referring to claim 45:

The computer product of claim 43 wherein said certain preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of each document to be printed. (col 4: lines 18-20; Fig 2)

Referring to claim 46:

The computer product of claim 40 wherein said data patterns are selected from the list including:

Return address, destination address, mailing date, number of pages, type of inserts, mailing service type, postage indicia, bar codes, tracking codes, control codes. (Fig 2; col 3: lines 51-67; col 4: lines 1-10)

Referring to claim 47:

The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one additional function further comprises accepting data from a source other than said data stream.

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100 accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG. 5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) Once the postage value is determined, controller 100 then requests a postal indicia corresponding to that

Art Unit: 3600

value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the request is granted, returns the variable portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller 100 downloads this variable data to printer 66 together with address and other information to be printed on the envelope. (col 6: lines 4-11) Therefore it can be seen that Harman accepts data from a source other than the data stream. (weight database, postal rate database, class 2 meter)

Referring to claim 48:

Hartman et al disclose the method of claim 1 further comprising:

Controlling the abstraction from said data stream by a code embedded in said data stream. (col 5: lines 36-45)

Referring to claim 49:

Hartman et al disclose the method of claim 17 further comprising:

Controlling the abstraction from said data stream by a code embedded in said data stream. (col 5: lines 36-45)

Referring to claim 50:

Hartman et al disclose the computer program product of claim 33 where said abstraction program is controlled by a code embedded in said data stream. (col 5: lines 36-45)

Referring to claim 51:

Hartman et al disclose the computer program product of claim 41 where said abstraction program is controlled by a code embedded in said data stream. (col 5: lines 36-45)

(10) Response to Argument

With regards to claim 1, the appellant argues that Harman does not teach abstracting data bits from the data stream where said data stream is provided by an application. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The appellant alleges that in Harman, Microsoft Word does not provide a data stream to parser 112, instead, mail center controller 4, through host interface 110, provides a data stream to parser 112. Also significantly, mail center controller 4 receives job data 10 from stations 2 and modifies the data by adding data from other sources.

Harman describes mail center controller 4 as follows: "Job data 10 is then transmitted to mail center controller 6[sic]. If the mail pieces are to be franked and the postage values have not been determined a priori, mail center controller 6[sic] accesses postal rate data base 44 and material data base 45 to determine the postage and materials costs as a function of the materials used." (col 5: lines 12-16) However, as Harman disclosed, using the mail center controller 4 to determine a postage value is only the preferred embodiment of the invention, the postage value could have been determined and included in the job header 12 before the data stream gets to the mail center controller 4. (col 4: lines 9-11, 62-67) Therefore it is obvious from the description that if the postage value is determined in advance, then the mail center controller 4 does nothing and passes the data stream along to the parser for abstraction.

Furthermore, Hartman discloses that "it is well within the skill of a person of ordinary skill in the programming arts to modify a word processing application or produce a special application which would enable a system to provide such varying attribute data for mail piece headers 18." (col 5: lines 6-10) Therefore it is obvious at

the time of the invention for one skilled in the arts to combine the word processing application and driver 37 as disclosed by Hartman into one application to create the job data, and then pass the job data onto the parser 112. The appellant asserts that the combination of a Microsoft Word and driver 37 of Harman would clearly be an application adapted to control additional functions. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The combined application of a Microsoft Word and driver 37 as disclosed by Harman would simply function to create the job data and not adapted to control any additional functions that the appellant recites in the claim language.

The appellant also alleges that Hartman does not show that the parsing occurs at parser 112 involves examining the data stream for data patterns native to the output of the application. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As disclosed by Hartman in Fig 2, there is definitely a data pattern in the job data and the parser 112 examines the data stream for the data patterns by outputting "document data from field 20 to page description language (PDL) interpreter 114 and envelope data from field 22 to envelope data buffer 118 in mail finishing unit controller 100. Parser 112 also outputs mail finishing unit control data, which is default attribute data from job header 12 or specific mail piece attribute data from mail piece header 18, and the EOJ to mail piece attribute generator 116." (col 7: lines 49-55) Therefore Hartman clearly disclose a data pattern in the job data stream and the pattern is used by the parser to distribute the data to the appropriate areas.

With regards to claim 17, the appellant alleges that Hartman does not teach abstracting includes examining the data stream for preestablished data patterns that

include the beginning and the ending of postage indicia data. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As disclosed by Hartman in Fig 2, there is obviously a preestablished data patterns in the job data stream. Furthermore job header 12 includes data relating to the postage indicia (col 4: lines 9-11) and is separated from other data in the data stream by unique separators (col 4: lines 31-34). Therefore it is clear and obvious that Hartman teaches abstracting includes examining the data stream for preestablished data patterns that include the beginning and the ending of postage indicia data.

With regards to claim 23, the Appellant alleges that Hartman does not show “calculating under joint control of said secure memory and said separate data stream an amount of postage to be applied to a particular document to be printed...” The Appellant asserts that Harman’s “variable data” is created after the postage value is calculated and therefore does not teach the limitation of claim 23. The Examiner respectfully disagrees and note the Harman’s invention must be taken as a whole. While Harman’s “variable data” is indeed created after the postage value is calculated, it is not used as a separate data stream to calculate the amount of postage needed. Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100 accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG. 5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) At this point a separate data stream including data accepted from a source other than said data stream to said printing device has been created, before the postage amount is determined.

Then, once the postage value is determined, controller 100 then requests a postal indicia corresponding to that value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the request is granted, returns the variable portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller 100 downloads this variable data to printer 66 together with address and other information to be printed on the envelope. (col 6: lines 4-11) Therefore, it can be seen that Harman creates a separate data stream and in conjunction with the class 2 meter determine the amount of postage to be applied to a particular document to be printed.

With regards to claim 33, the Appellant alleges that Hartman does not teach "an abstracting program operable for reviewing said data stream... wherein said data stream is provided by an application which has not been adapted to control said additional printing operations..." The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Harman discloses that "Job data 10 is then transferred to parser 112 which outputs document data from field 20 to page description language (PDL) interpreter 114 and envelope data from field 22 to envelope data buffer 118 in mail finishing unit controller 100." (col 7: lines 48-52) It is clear from the disclosure that parser 112 reviews the data stream provided by an application which has not been adapted to control said additional printing operations. If parser 112 does not review the data stream, it cannot differentiate data from different fields, i.e. document data from field 20, and envelope data from field 22. Therefore, the fact that the parser 112 can differentiate and transmit the data from each field to the appropriate location shows that the data stream is being reviewed by the abstracting program.

The Appellant further argues that the combination of driver 37 and Microsoft Word would be an application adapted to control additional printing operations, which is the opposite of what is claimed in claim 33. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As discussed above with regards to claim 1, the combined application of a Microsoft Word and driver 37 as disclosed by Harman would simply function to create the job data and not adapted to control any additional functions that the appellant recites in the claim language.

With regards to claim 41, the Appellant alleges that Hartman does not teach an abstracting program which examines the data stream for the beginning and ending of postage indicia data. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As disclosed by Hartman in Fig 2, there is definitely a data pattern in the job data and the parser 112 examines the data stream for the data patterns by outputting "document data from field 20 to page description language (PDL) interpreter 114 and envelope data from field 22 to envelope data buffer 118 in mail finishing unit controller 100. Parser 112 also outputs mail finishing unit control data, which is default attribute data from job header 12 or specific mail piece attribute data from mail piece header 18, and the EOJ to mail piece attribute generator 116." (col 7: lines 49-55) Therefore Hartman clearly disclose an abstracting program which examines the data stream for the beginning and ending of postage indicia data, if the parser 112 does not realize the beginning and ending of the data then the parser will not be able to distribute the data to the appropriate areas.

The appellant also argues that because in Harman, postage is calculated prior to the asserted separate data stream ("variable data") being created, the Examiner,

Art Unit: 3600

therefore has not shown the limitation of claim 41 requiring a “separate data stream for enabling at least one said ancillary printing operation, wherein said at least one ancillary operation comprises the printing of a postage indicia...” Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100 accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG. 5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) At this point a separate data stream including data has been created and is for the printing of a postage indicia. Furthermore, notwithstanding the response provided by the Examiner in claim 23 that the “variable data” is not the separate data stream used to calculate the postage indicia, both the separate data stream used by data store 101 and the “variable data” are created before a postage indicia is printed. Therefore, Harman clearly teach separate data stream for enabling at least one said ancillary printing operation, wherein said at least one ancillary operation comprises the **printing** of a postage indicia as disclosed in claim 41.

With regards to claim 4, the appellant argues that there is no rational reason for giving the user an option to switch apparatus if no capable apparatus exists. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Hartman disclose that the system tests if a capable mail processing apparatus is online, and if no capable apparatus is found controller 4 goes to an error routine. (col 9: lines 55-62) It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one skilled in the arts that if the system cannot detect a capable mail processing apparatus then it would display a dialog box to the user notifying the error

and allow the user to either dismiss the error or select a mail processing apparatus that is capable of performing the job.

With regards to claim 6, the appellant argues that Hartman does not teach directing the abstracted portion to multiple locations. The applicant asserts that Hartman sends the data to a single location "-the page description language interpreter or envelope data buffer." The Examiner is confused as to where the applicant determined that Hartman sends the data to the page description language interpreter **or** envelope data buffer when Hartman expressly disclosed that the parser outputs document data from field 20 to page description language (PDL) interpreter 114 **and** envelope data from field 22 to envelope data buffer 118 in mail finishing unit controller 100. (col 7: lines 49-52) Also if the applicant review Fig 5 as disclosed in Hartman it is clear that the PDL interpreter and the Envelope data buffer are in two different locations.

With regards to claim 12, the appellant argues that Hartman does not teach the printer driver is operable on the data stream coming from the application operating in a computing device to control at least a portion of the printing of the printer. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Hartman discloses that "printer controller 58 receives job data 10 from mail center controller 4 and parses the data; sending the mail piece header 18 to mail finishing unit controller 100." (col 5: lines 36-41) From this disclosure it is clear that the printer driver is operable on the data stream coming from the application operating in a computing device to control at least a portion of the printing of the printer, the printer controller 58 is controlling which data gets to send to which printer. The citation to mail finishing unit controller 100 storing mail piece attributes 40

from job header 12 for default control of the production of each mail piece and downloads common elements of the address to be printed on the envelopes to envelope printer 66. (col 5: lines 42-46) is used to show that the data operated on by the printer controller 58 is indeed used for printing.

The Appellant further argues that different structures are used to teach the print driver claimed in claim 1 and claim 12, where parser 112 is used to teach claim 1 and printer controller 58 is used to teach claim 12. However, Hartman discloses that the printer controller 58 incorporates parser 112, and therefore they are the same structure. (col 7: lines 35-38, 44-50; Fig 5)

With regards to claim 21, the appellant does not understand how the document data field 20 shown in Fig 2 teaches the claimed limitation of "abstracting of data bits includes examining the data stream for data patterns including the beginning and ending of each document." Hartman discloses, with respect to Fig 2, that document data 20 is mail piece data defining a sequence of document pages to be printed by the document printer and is separated from other data bits by separators 26-2 and 26-3. (col 4: lines 18-20; 32-34) Therefore it is clear that the document data 20 is a data pattern and the beginning and the end of the document is defined by the separators 26-2 and 26-3. The appellant asserts that the separators between the documents do not teach the requirement that the abstracting of data bits includes examining the data stream for data patterns including the beginning and ending of each document. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The separators are clearly there to indicate the beginning and ending of the document data, so when the parser examines the data it

uses the separators as an indicator for figuring out where the document data 20 begin and end in the data stream.

With regards to claim 22, the appellant argues that Hartman does not teach the limitations of claim 22, more specifically does not teach that the abstracting of data bits includes examining the data stream for the number of pages of a document. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Hartman discloses the job header 12 includes the number of document sheets to be accumulated for each mail piece (col 3: lines 57-60) and the job header 12 is parsed by the printer controller 58 and the attribute data from the job header 12 is send accordingly for control of the production of mail pieces. (col 5: lines 36-45) Therefore it is clear that the printer controller 58 examines the data stream which includes the job header 12 for the number of pages of a document.

With regards to claim 25, the appellant argues that Hartman does not teach copying from said data stream portions of said data stream. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The applicant asserts that the teaching from Hartman is that the data stream sent to the mail finishing controller is attribute data that has been parsed from the job data by controller 58 (col 5: lines 37-46). However, is the parsed attribute data not part of the original data stream? Since the parsed attribute data is part of the original data stream that have just been parsed, then Hartman's method of storing mail piece attributes and downloading the common elements of the address to be printed is copying from said data stream portion of said data stream.

With regards to claim 26, the appellant argues that Hartman does not teach the limitations of claim 26, the Examiner respectfully disagrees and directs the applicant to the arguments provided with regards to claim 25.

With regards to claim 27, the appellant argues that Hartman does not teach creating from the copied address information a postage indicia and that Harman's postage indicia do not include address information. The Examiner respectfully disagrees and directs the applicant to the arguments provided with regards to claim 25 in explaining copying information. Since it is obvious that the address is needed to calculate a proper postage indicia and Hartman teaches copying the address information therefore Hartman teaches the limitations of claim 27. Furthermore, claim 27 recites creating a postage indicia **from** the address information, which clearly is what Hartman does to in order to calculate proper postage. Claim 27 does not claim creating a postage indicia **with** the address information, therefore Hartman does not disclose that the postage indicia must include the address information.

With regards to claims 31 and 32, Hartman disclose that the system tests if a capable mail processing apparatus is online, and if no capable apparatus is found controller 4 goes to an error routine. (col 9: lines 55-62) It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one skilled in the arts that if the system cannot detect a capable mail processing apparatus then it would display a dialog box to the user notifying the error and allow the user to either dismiss the error or select a mail processing apparatus that is capable of performing the job.

With regards to claim 40, the appellant alleges that Hartman does not teach “a control program for examining said data stream for certain preestablished data patterns, wherein said control program examines said data stream for data patterns native to output of said application.” The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Hartman discloses that “it is well within the skill of a person of ordinary skill in the programming arts to modify a word processing application or produce a special application which would enable a system to provide such varying attribute data for mail piece headers 18.” (col 5: lines 6-10) Therefore it is obvious at the time of the invention for one skilled in the arts to combine the word processing application and driver 37 as disclosed by Hartman into one application to create the job data, and the application's function is to create the job data and not adapted to control any additional functions. Furthermore, Harman also disclosed, using the mail center controller 4 to determine a postage value is only the preferred embodiment of the invention, the postage value could have been determined and included in the job header 12 before the data stream gets to the mail center controller 4. (col 4: lines 9-11, 62-67) Therefore it is obvious from the description that if the postage value is determined in advance, then the mail center controller 4 does nothing and passes the data stream along to the parser for abstraction.

Combined the above disclosure with Fig 2, which shows that there is definitely a data pattern in the job data and the parser 112 examines the data stream for the data patterns by outputting “document data from field 20 to page description language (PDL) interpreter 114 and envelope data from field 22 to envelope data buffer 118 in mail finishing unit controller 100. Parser 112 also outputs mail finishing unit control data,

Art Unit: 3600

which is default attribute data from job header 12 or specific mail piece attribute data from mail piece header 18, and the EOJ to mail piece attribute generator 116.” (col 7: lines 49-55) Therefore Hartman clearly disclose a data pattern in the job data stream and the pattern is used by the parser to distribute the data to the appropriate areas.

With regards to claim 45, the appellant alleges that Hartman does not teach that a computer product includes a control program for examining the data stream for preestablished data patterns that include the beginning and ending of each document to be printed. The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Hartman discloses, with respect to Fig 2, that document data 20 is mail piece data defining a sequence of document pages to be printed by the document printer and is separated from other data bits by separators 26-2 and 26-3. (col 4: lines 18-20; 32-34) Therefore it is clear that the document data 20 is a data pattern and the beginning and the end of the document is defined by the separators 26-2 and 26-3. Then the document data from field 20 is parsed by parser 112 and is sent to page description language (PDL) interpreter 114. (col 7: lines 49-50) Therefore Hartman discloses a computer product includes a control program for examining the data stream for preestablished data patterns that include the beginning and ending of each document to be printed.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner’s answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Rutao Wu

/Rob Wu/

Examiner, Art Unit 3628

Conferees:

John Hayes, Supervisory Patent Examiner, 3628

/JOHN W HAYES/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3628

Vincent Millin /VM/

Appeals Conference Specialist